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of the preface, "It presents an important aspect of Gallic civilization which our present interest in things French does not permit us to overlook. It will help to make young Americans better acquainted with a land that has been the outpost of civilization against barbarism since the dawn of the Christian era; a country which first cradled art and learning north of the Alps; a people whose strife and sufferings for the past four years form but another chapter in the glorious history of those concerning whom Caesar rightly said: 'Of all the peoples of Gaul the Belgians are the bravest.' "

French war stories for elementary students.—The publishers say of *La France Héroique*[1]: "This reader has been prepared for the purpose of helping American pupils to have a clearer realization of the undying spirit of heroism and self-sacrifice that animated the people of France during the recent war. The selections are interesting and varied, and relate simply and truthfully, in the language of every-day life, some of the deeds of valor of the officers, soldiers, and civilians of this great nation which has been aptly called 'The Soldier of God.' "

These forty-one thrilling accounts of brave deeds are precisely what the high-school boy and girl will read with enthusiasm; their very modernity makes them the more appealing. Most of them are related in the present tense or the *passé de la conversation* (*passé indéfini*) with plenty of vivid dialogue, so that an overdose of the *passé absolu* (*passé défini*) is avoided. Difficult expressions are well explained by footnotes in French, when possible; in English, when plainly necessary. A few good sketches lend interest to the subject-matter. Besides a complete vocabulary with historical and geographical notes in simple French, there is a series of exercises, one for each episode. The latter include intelligent questions on the text, questions on synonyms, simple idiomatic sentences for translation into French, and various other devices—all adapted to the direct method of teaching. The book is well worth consideration by every wide-awake teacher of the direct method.

An essay for advanced French students.—By editing a thesis entitled, *De l'Universalité de la Langue Française*,[2] W. W. Comfort, president of Haverford College, has resurrected to literary notice Antoine Rivarol, who long has lain buried and unmarked, save by the meager monument of a few lines devoted to mention of him in the *Histoires de la Littérature Française*. This brilliant ornament of the salons of Paris, known "chiefly as a wit, a brilliant conversationalist, whose caustic judgment and trenchant phrase were remarked by his contemporaries," was "a perfect type of the eighteenth century Frenchman. His talent for general truth, and his genius for brilliant epigram make his literary remains of decided interest." But he is not often read.

This thesis, by devious blending of historical facts and logical conclusions, shows just why French has become the universal language. By universal language Rivarol means that language which, by its natural growth, its power, and flexibility, is best able to express exactly, concisely, and fittingly the great thoughts developed by all nations. It is the survival of the fittest among lan-

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[1] F. H. Osgood, *La France Héroique, Episodes de la Grande Guerre*. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., Pp. vi+174. $1.00.

[2] W. W. Comfort, Antoine Rivarol's *De l'Universalité de la Langue Francaise*. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1919. Pp. vi+62. $0.50.